URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF ELLAND.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR 1919.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Elland.

Gentlemen,

The epidemic of Influenza to which I drew your attention in my Annual Report for 1918, continued during the whole of the first quarter of 1919, and not only caused 18 deaths, but was no doubt responsible for others, particularly of those affecting the respiratory organs. The incidence of this disease seemed to be more heavily felt by those ranging from 18 to 50 years of age; and in the cases of young children and old people, recovery was in most cases quick, and complications not so common nor so fatal. This disease with Pneumonia became notifiable in March, and from that time till the close of the epidemic, only 10 cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever of a particularly mild character was prevalent, more or less, during the year. 48 cases were notified, and I am glad to report that in no case did the disease have a fatal termination. Still there was so much sickness from this cause and from Measles and Whooping Cough, that I found it necessary to advise the closing of the Infants Departments of the South End (provided) and the National (non-provided) Schools, for a period of two weeks during the month of November. This was carried out with, I believe, very good effect, preventing further trouble, particularly from Measles and Whooping Cough. There was one death attributable to this latter disease.

The following is a table showing the number and names of the diseases notified during the year.

	Total	Males	Females
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	10	7	3
Pneumonia	5	2	3
Malaria	4	4	0
Scarlet Fever	48	21	27
Diphtheria	9	5	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	1
Erysipelas	7	3	4
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	6	5
Tubercular Meningitis ...	1	1	0
Total	98	51	47

All the cases of Malaria were of soldiers who had contracted the disease while serving in His Majesty's Forces in the East.

Diphtheria, from which disease one death resulted, and which used to be viewed with the greatest terror and swept away whole families, has now happily lost its terror, owing to the treatment now universally used by Antitoxin Serum. This latter has for several years been kept at the Council Offices, and is distributed free of charge to those who cannot afford to pay. The case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis notified, ended fatally, and was one of those complications previously referred to as following Influenza. Bacteriological examination of the Cerebro-Spinal fluid was made without practical result.

The population of your district has been estimated by the Ministry of Health for the calculation of the death rates at 10,226, and at 10,694 for the birth rates. 125 births were registered during the year, 62 males and 63 females, including 3 transferred, and also including 12 illigitimate. The latter is a large proportion, and the explanation I must leave to the moralists. The birth rate works out at 11·68 per 1000, an extremely low one, as compared with 13·8 for England and Wales. This increasing danger to our National existence will no doubt find a remedy in the high wages and more general comfort and prosperity of the people, coupled with a more healthy environment.

After taking into consideration outward and inward

transfers, 144 deaths occurred during the year, at the rate of 14·08 per 1000 per annum, as compared with 13·08 for England and Wales; and the infant mortality rate for the year is 88 per 1000 births, as compared with 89 for the rest of the country.

The total deaths and their causes are given in the following table :-

	Males	Females	Total
Whooping Cough ...	1	0	1
Diphtheria ...	1	0	1
Influenza ...	7	11	18
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	3	6
Tubercular Meningitis	1	0	1
Other Tuberculous diseases	0	2	2
Cancer ...	3	9	12
Meningitis ...	1	1	2
Organic Heart Disease	8	8	16
Bronchitis ...	8	6	14
Pneumonia ...	5	4	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Bright's Disease	1	1	2
Parturition	-	1	1
Congenital Debility	2	2	4
Violence apart from Suicide	3	-	3
Suicide ...	2	-	2
Other Defined Diseases	20	28	48
	67	77	144

You will notice that such diseases as Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, and Measles are entirely absent from this list, which only contains two deaths from the principal Zymotic diseases. I consider that both the notifications and the deaths from Tuberculous Diseases point to a welcome decline in the incidence of the White Plague. At the same time I must point out that deaths from Cancer show that diseases of this character are about the most terrible and most fatal to be contended with, and which, scientific research has not yet discovered the cause or causes which tend to their development.

Other Annual Death Rates per 1000 living :-

Influenza.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Cancer.	Pneumonia.
1·76	0·58	1·17	0·88

Your district is especially well situated from a Sanitary point of view, the whole town being built on a slope descending rather rapidly towards the river, on the banks of which your Sewage Scheme and Destructor are placed. The old part of the town is built mainly on rock, and the subsoil of the whole plateau extending from Hullen Edge Road to Victoria Road, is either rock or sand, and it is in this part that your Housing Scheme is developing. Except on the hill tops, the subsoil in the lower and remaining parts of the district is impervious clay.

Your Committee has many schemes of the greatest importance, which will take your whole attention during the next few years. I need only mention your Town Planning and Housing Schemes, and the Improving or Re-construction of your Sewage Works and Electricity Plant. Nevertheless the general Sanitary conditions will receive your usual diligent attention, and I am in good hopes that within another two years, the whole Tub and Privy systems for the removal of excreta will have given place to the Water Carriage system, thereby removing another source of danger to health, and saving great expense in labour and carting at the same time.

Your Sanitary Inspector has done a great deal of work during the year, and done it well. I might draw your special attention to his work in guarding the milk and food supplies, on which the health of all, and especially of children depends. By preserving infant life, we can do something to counterbalance the decreasing birth rate, and ensure for our country in the future a more healthy and robust population than that brought to light by our Medical Boards during the war.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ROBT. N. DENNING,

Medical Officer of Health.

April 26th, 1920.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Elland.

Gentlemen,

I respectfully beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year ended, 1919.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

Month.	No. of Loads to Destructor.	Weight. Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Tips.	Land.	Total.
January ...	94	102	1	3	144	5	243
February ...	81	87	18	1	111	24	216
March ...	137	138	12	2	93	17	247
April ...	122	123	5	0	70	6	198
May	134	131	3	2	81	16	231
June ...	91	92	12	1	138	30	259
July	130	95	10	3	73	2	205
August ...	106	103	12	3	46	12	164
September ...	97	80	7	2	80	18	195
October ...	128	122	8	1	73	3	204
November ...	134	136	8	1	56	36	226
December ...	135	136	9	3	47	10	192
Total... ...	1389	1350	10	2	1012	179	2580

Total Number of loads of House Refuse removed.

1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
2059	2170	1864	2182	2241	2580

Conversion of Privies etc. into Water Closet.

Year.	W.C.'s	Tipper.	Total.
1915	100	1	101
1916	17		17
1917	39		39
1918	13		13
1919	45	2	47

During the Year 1919, 23 ashpit privies and 24 tub closets were converted into water closets, four additional water closets were provided.

Summary Nuisances reported for the Year 1919.

	Reported	Remedied.
Obstructed and Defective Drains ...	83	83
Houses without sinks	3	3
Sink wastes pipes in connection ...	5	5
Defective water closet fittings ...	50	47
Insanitary privies and tub closet ...	55	55
Defective ashsheds and ashpits ...	23	22
Premises without ashbins	19	19
Insufficient ventilation	4	3
Defective roofs and eavestroughing	37	35
Overcrowding in dwelling houses ...	4	4
Houses disinfected	71	71
Accumulations of manure &c. (removed)	62	62
Swine kept as a nuisance	4	4
Water in cellars (cleared)	13	13
Premises redrained	20	20
Dwelling houses repaired (walls, &c.) ...	13	9

Summary of Food, Drugs and Unsound Food.

No. of samples taken for Analysis	37
,, ,, Adulterated	Nil.
,, ,, taken for Bacteriological examination	11

UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

	LBS.
1 Beast (Heifer)	
Butchers Meat	222½
Bacon and Ham	39
Fish	8
Vegetables	28
Condensed Milk	7 tins.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Yours Obediently,

H. LEE JONES.

Sanitary Inspector, &c.

April 26th 1920.

TABLE C. 1919.

Elland Urban Sanitary District.

Water Supply—

Any developments during 1919?—None.

Any insufficency, and where?—None.

Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where?—None.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Any developments during 1919?—Slight improvement of Sewerage filter bed.

Developments still needed—

Improvement of defective sewers—required in several parts.

Any inadequacy of Sewerage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells?—Declared inadequate.

Are there any sink wastes still needing disconnection —Yes many.

Closet Acommodation—

No. of Privies with open middens—Two.

No. of Pail or Tub Closets—202.

No. of Privies with covered middens—243.

No. of Water Closet—1290.

Waste-water Closets—398.

No. of Privies reconstructed during 1919.—

(*a*) as w.c-'s—23 ashpit privies and 24 tubs.

(*b*) other 2 waste water.

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1919—(*a*) w.c.'s—4 (*b*) other—Nil.

No. of Closets constructed in 1919 for new houses—(*a*) w.c's—11—(*b*) other Nil.

Scavenging—

Any change during 1919?—No.

How is refuse disposed of? No. of loads to—

(*a*) Destructor—1389.

(*b*) Tips—1012.

(*c*) Farmers land—179.

Total annual cost —£850.
Is there any inadequacy, and where?—No.

Nuisance Inspectious.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1919—2207
Informal Notices served—77. Complied with - 58.
Statutory Notices served—19. Complied with—17.
Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1918—31,
At close of 1919—19
Total No. of Nuisance reported during 1919—395.
Abated during 1919—407.
Total No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings —1.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Condition.	Legal Proceedings (if any)
Common Lodging Houses	—	—			
Houses let in Lodgings	—	—			
Canal Boats	7	7	8	Good.	
Knackers' Yards ..	—	—			
Tents Vans & Sheds ..	—	—			
Offensive Trades .. Please specify kind)	4	4	12	2 Tripe Boiling 1 Soap Boiling 1 Oil Extractor (No Complaints)	

Have the Council declared any other process to be offensive trades, *e.g*, Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, etc.? please give particulars—No.

Schools—

No. of Visits to Schools—20.
Action taken respecting Sanitary Conveniences and cleansing of walls and ceilings.

Milk Supply—

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts—37. No. adulterated—none.
No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination—11.
What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows—none.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1919—No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district—13. No. Registered—13. No. of Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers—10. No. who are Purveyors only—3. Total No. Registered—16.

Total No. of Cowsheds—24. No. of Inspections in 1919—40. General Condition—fair.

Approximate No. of Milch Cows in District—110. Any insufficiency in Milk Supply—No.

Legal proceedings under D.C.M. Orders—Nil.

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent—No.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order 1919. Any action—Arrangements made with Food Control Committee to supply to necessitous mothers.

Other Foods—

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Foods and Drugs Acts—None. No. adulterated—None.

No. of seizures of unsound food—10. Kind and quantity—See report. No. of Prosecutions—Nil.

No. of Slaughter houses—6. No. Registered—5. No. Licensed—1. Kind and Condition—Generally good.

No. of Prosecutions—(*a*) Food and Drugs—Nil. (*b*) Unsound Food—Nil. (*c*) *re* Slaughter Houses—Nil.

No. of Bakehouses—9. Is there a Public Abattoir—No.

Factories and Workshops—

Any Smoke nuisance, and where—Yes, various parts of District.

No. of Smoke observations taken—36. No. of Cautions—3. Legal Notices—2. Summonses—1.

Byelaws and Regulations—

Any adopted or revised during 1919—No.

Are any other Byelaws needed—Yes.

Infectious and other Diseases—

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1919? Mild epidemic scarlet fever.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—Yes, Pneumonia, Influenza, Acute Encephalitis Lethargica, and Polio Encephalitis.

Any influences threatening the health of the District? No.

Tuberculosis—

Inspection of patient's home and workshop—Yes.
Examination for contacts—Yes.
Disinfection—Yes.
Distribution of advice leaflets—Yes.
Action *re* spitting—Yes.
Shelters provided—Yes.
Is sputum examined—Yes.

Bacteriology—

Is County Laboratory utilized—Yes.
Any suggestions—No.

Infant Mortality—

What organised effort to control it?—County Health Visitor, Increased supervision Milk Supply.

Any Voluntary Centres for Child or Mother Welfare? None in District.

Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1919—not excessive.

Vital Statistics—

Births during 1919—Males 62. Females 63. Total 125.
No. illegitimate included in above—12.
No. of Still Births (not included)—no record.

Deaths during 1919—Gross Deaths, *i.e.*, Total actually registered in the District without any correction—129.

Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated—Males 67. Females 77. Total 144.

No. of uncertified deaths (included above)—Nil.

Mortuaries—

What Mortuary accommodation—(a) for accidents—provided in Council Office's Yard. (b) for infectious cases other than at Hospital—Not required.

Sanitary Staff—

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.?—£60.

Name of Sanitary Inspector --Harry Lee Jones.
Annual Salary as Inspector £143 15s.
Other appointments held—Assistant Surveyor.
Salary for such other appointments—£106 5s.
Any Assistants—No.